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In re Patent Application:

Serial No.: 09/557,990

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Inventors: Carducci et al.

Title: Magnetic Barrier for Plasma in Chamber Exhaust

Examiner: Goudreau, G.

Group Art Unit: 1763

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Attorney docket: AM 3536

Box "Non-Fee Amendment"
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 12, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examining the subject patent application, please enter the following amendment:

In the Claims

Rewrite claims 1, 2, 7-10, 13-15, 26 and 27 as follows:

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- 1 1. (amended) A plasma chamber comprising:
 - 2 a vacuum chamber enclosure enclosing a chamber interior;
 - 3 a gas inlet aperture through which gas can be admitted into the chamber interior;
 - 4 *A* an exhaust aperture through which gas can be exhausted from the chamber interior;
 - 5 an exhaust channel extending between the chamber interior and the exhaust pump so as to
 - 6 provide a path for gas flow from the chamber interior to the exhaust aperture;
 - 7 a deflector positioned within the exhaust channel so as to create turbulence in said gas flow
 - 8 through the exhaust channel; and
 - 9 a magnet system having north and south magnetic poles positioned adjacent the deflector.
- 1 2. (amended) A plasma chamber according to claim 1, wherein the magnet system produces a
- 2 magnetic field strong enough to block plasma from extending from the chamber interior to the exhaust
- 3 aperture.